

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A method for producing iturin A and its homologues, comprising cultivating a *Bacillus* microbe ~~having an ability to produce~~that produces iturin A and its homologues in a liquid medium containing 2 % mass or more of soybean powder or defatted soybean powder until the concentration of, ~~wherein said microbe produces~~ iturin A and its homologues in the medium ~~to a concentration of~~ is 1.5 g/L or more, and wherein during said cultivation, said *Bacillus* microbe produces 50ppm or less of surfactin in the medium.

2. **(currently amended):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein during said cultivation, said *Bacillus* microbe continues to grow when the concentration of iturin A and its ~~homologs are produced to a concentration of at least~~homologues reach 1.5 g/L.

3. **(canceled).**

4. **(currently amended):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~microbe is cultivated in a liquid medium containing~~ contains 3 % mass or less of K₂HPO₄.

5. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

6. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

7. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

8. **(previously presented):** The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid medium containing 2 % mass or more of soybean powder or defatted soybean powder contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of maltose, starch syrup, soluble starch, dextrin, glucose, sucrose, and fructose.

9. **(previously presented):** A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

10. **(previously presented):** A solid containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by drying the culture as claimed in claim 9.

11. (withdrawn): An agent for preventing plant diseases, comprising the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

12. (withdrawn): A method for preventing a plant disease, comprising using in an unpurified form the culture containing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 9 or solid thereof obtained by drying the culture.

13. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.

14. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

15. (withdrawn - currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.

16. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

17. (withdrawn - currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

18. (withdrawn): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 2, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

19. (withdrawn - currently amended): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

20. (withdrawn): A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in claim 2 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

21. (new): The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 7, wherein said mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427) is produced by subjecting *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427) to a chemical or physical mutagen.